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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 CAIRO 002277

SIPDIS

FOR NEA/ELA, IO/RHS AND G/TIP
GENEVA FOR CASSAYRE AND MANSFIELD

E.O. 12958: DECL: 12/10/2029

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SUBJECT: GOE UPR HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT FOCUSES ON COMMITMENTS, BUT IS SHORT ON DETAILS REF: A. CAIRO 2164 B. CAIRO 1948 C. CAIRO 1925 D. CAIRO 18
1.KEY POINTS -- (C) According to the MFA, the GOE's report for the UN Human Rights Council's (UNHRC) February 17 Universal Periodic Review (UPR)

- 2.(C) Comment: The report's commitments appear to track generally with the quasi-governmental National Council for Human Rights' recommendation
- 3.(C) On December 7, MFA Deputy Director for Human Rights Omar Shalaby characterized the November 12 report's voluntary commitments section as
- 4.(C) Shalaby said the GOE pledges to limit defamation suits (often used to target journalists) by requiring the Public Prosecutor (attorney ge
- 5.(C) Shalaby told us the report also commits Egypt to review its definition of torture (which is currently defined only in the context of extr
- 6.(C) According to Shalaby, the report lists GOE advances on human rights, but "does not pretend we have done wonders." He said the submission
- 7.(C) Comment: Journalists are generally free to criticize government policy, but coverage of topics such as the military and security services
- 8.(C) Shalaby acknowledged that a significant portion of the 20-page report deals with the government's legal framework on human rights issues